

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 /079 W

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R 181345Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4409

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0185

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF

SUBJECT: VORSTER COMMENTS ON RHODESIA

1. DURING OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WITH SOUTH AFRICAN
NEWSPAPER EDITORS FEBRUARY 17, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER SAID
HE HAD MET WITH IAN SMITH ON SATURDAY, FEB 16. VORSTER
AVOIDED SAYING THAT HE PUTTING PRESSURE ON SMITH, BUT TOLD
EDITORS THAT SO FAR SMITH HAS ACCEDED TO ALL OF SAG'S
"REQUESTS."

2. VORSTER WAS ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF TALKS BETWEEN
SMITH GOVERNMENT AND ANC BROKE DOWN. HIS REPLY REVEALED,
ACCORDING TO SOME OF EDITORS PRRESENT, STRENGTH OF EMOTIONAL
ATTACHMENT VORSTER STILL HAS WITH WHITE RHODESIANS. VORSTER
SAID THAT IF GUERRILLA WARFARE RESUMED AND EXCALATED, AND
THAT "IF A THOUSAND WHITES WERE KILLED," HE WOULD BE UNDER
TREMENDOUS PRESSURE FROM SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES TO SEND
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MILITARY FORCES TO RHODESIA TO PROTECT WHITES THERE.

3. COMMENT: VORSTER'S GLOOMY ASSESSMENT OF WHAT HE WOULD
HAVE TO DO IF WHITE RHODESIANS WERE FACED WITH SERIOUS
THREAT OF VIOLENCE INDICATES THAT HE HAS ALL THE MORE
REASON TO PERSIST IN HIS EFFORTS TO INDUCE SMITH TO SETTLE
WITH ANC.
HURD

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NNN

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